(c) the details of child labourers involved in begging, flesh trade, pickpocketing, smuggling, hazardous industries etc., State-wise;

(d) the estimated number of bonded child labourers; and

(e) the number of child labourers freed from bonded labour and hazardous works during the last two years and till now this years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) According to the 1991 census, the number of working children in Inida was 11.28 million. As per the information received from ILO, India has the largest number of child labour population in the world. Age-wise details of working children are not maintained.

(c) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 Prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in Occupations and Processes listed in the Schedule to the Act. Begging, flesh trade, pick pocketing and smuggling are not included in the above schedule.

(d) and (e) The Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any distinction between child bondage and adult bondage. As many as 2,83,158 bonded labourers have been identified since enactment of the Bonded Labour Act and up to 30.09.02. Data on child bonded labour is not maintained separately.

Bonded Labour (including child bonded labour) identified and released during the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of Bonded Labour rehabilitated
2000-01	5256
2001-02	3929
2002-03	1037 (upto 30.09.2002)

Trade Unions Opposition to the Report of Second Labour Commission

997. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that AITUC has conveyed to Government its opposition to the report of the Second National Labour Commission on Labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the report;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the report is not only lopsided but also totally ignorant of interests of the working class; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) AITUC, in their letter dated 3.10.2002 have opposed the recommendations of Second National Commission on Labour on the plea that these are anti-labour and endangering the capacity of collective bargaining of the workers. They are critical to the recommendations of National Commission on Labour towards downsizing, lay-off, retrenchment, closures, casualisation, outsourcingh of workers, policy of hire and fire etc.

(c) and (d) The National Commission on Labour in its report has covered various facets of labour *viz.* review of laws, social security, women & child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector and other matters keeping in view the need to enhance economic efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of industry with due regard to safeguarding the industry of working population.

(e) Does not arise.

Payment of Minimum Wages

998. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

(a) whether Government have recently written to all the State to ensure that no worker is paid lesser than Rs. 50 per day;

(b) if so, whether Government are monitoring its implementation; and

(c) the wage required to be paid to the workers under the Minimum Wages Act?